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To whom it may concern,

My name is Motutama Sipelii, and I'm a first-generation, transfer student from American Samoa. I did not grow up locally but living within the city of Portland, I've developed a deep respect and admiration for the state of Oregon and PSU. I have the honor of serving as the student body president for the Associated Students of Portland State University for the current academic year. This year students have faced multiple challenges including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Black Lives Matter civil rights movement, rising political division, growing economic inequality, disastrous forest fires, etc. Despite all these ongoing impediments, students have been resilient and will persevere throughout all these hardships! However, there still remain various policies that limit students' input regarding important decisions across higher ed institutions across the state of Oregon and that is the control of how student fees are allocated.

Today I ask you to stand with students and vote yes on HB 3012, which will strengthen the existing legislation which guides students to control the allocation of the student fees. Many ongoing student-centered programs or departments at PSU such as Athletics, Food Pantry, multiple resource centers, Student Leadership Activities programs, etc. are all supported by the student fees. Our campus fee is vital to the continued operations of so many of these support programs. Students know what students need, and should continue to have the autonomy to decide how the revenue that these fees create are generated!

This bill is important to me because this will clarify the process for students and administrators in determining usage of student fees. Having students being directly responsible to allocate such fees will ensure that students above everything else will be prioritized when allocating such funds to the various support programs across campus. If you would like to discuss this further please reach out to me via email at msieplii@pdx.edu or connect me with your office manager so I can work with them to schedule a time for us to connect. Please vote yes on HB 3012, and thank you for your time.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Motutama N. Sipelii". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Motutama N. Sipelii